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Canton, MI 48187

April 27, 2022

Representative Gary Howell
Chair, Natural Resources Committee
Michigan House of Representatives

Via email, Mollie Wingrove, Committee Clerk, mwingrove@house.mi.gov

Re: Support HBs 5358, 5359, 5360, House Natural Resources Committee Meeting, April 28, 2022

Dear Rep. Howell, Committee Members, and bill sponsors:

Thank you for scheduling today's hearing on the bill package and for the opportunity to provide testimony. Attorneys for Animals, Inc. is a Michigan non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization of legal professionals and animal advocates. Its Board of Directors voted to support HBs 5358-5360. These bills provide common-sense, appropriate, measured and minimally invasive oversight of the hunting and fishing guide industries.

This committee has heard testimony supporting the package from hunting and fishing organizations, and even from some guides who would be regulated if the bills are enacted.ⁱ We write to provide another perspective in support of these bills because there are other viewpoints and other stakeholders that the committee should consider in reviewing HBs 5358-5360.

First, and importantly, the bills provide some measure of protection for the animals themselves, by excluding from obtaining a license, anyone who has been convicted within three years of offenses related to the taking of fish or wildlife. **Second**, all Michiganders have an interest in the protecting the state's wildlife and fish under the Public Trust Doctrine which the DNR has adopted as a "True North" principle in its current Wildlife Division Strategic Plan 2021-2026ⁱⁱ, and under which this rather modest regulatory and oversight scheme certainly is justified.

We urge the committee to report HBs 5358, 5359 and 5360.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beatrice M. Friedlander".

Beatrice M. Friedlander, JD
President

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https://www.house.mi.gov/Document/?Path=2021_2022_session/committee/house/standing/natural_resources_and_outdoor_recreation/meetings/2021-10-28-1/documents/Minutes.pdf

ⁱⁱ https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/-/media/Project/Websites/dnr/Documents/WLD/GPA/gps_plaintext.pdf (page 4 of 7)

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